Agro Service Centre Scheme launched by the Ministry in 1971-72, that though the concept for the full sized centre should have cost Rs. 2.5 lacs to Rs. 3.00 lacs but the banks under financed the Centres on average of Rs. 42 thousand only per unit which is hardly a viable size centre, for any satisfactory range of supplies or services;

(b) if so, what action and persuations could be done with the commercial banks by Government during last ten years to make the centres viable; and

(c) if no action had been taken in this regard the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The study report was released in 1979. The scheme was transferred to the State Sector w.e.f. 1-4-1979 in persuance of the decision of the National Development Council.

Recommendations of various organisations and States to solve problems of Agro Service Centres

3288. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tractor Training and Testing Centres of Hisar and Bundni in their Survey reports of 1977 and 1978, the Agriculture Ministry in 1981-82 the State Governments of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Haryana the State Agro Industries Corporation of Bihar, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. have recommended to the Central Government for the various facilities to be provided to the Agro Service Centres in Country to solve their problems;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the reasons for not including those genuine recommendations in the rehabilitation scheme prepared by Government in 1986 under Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgements directives dated the 30th September, 1985 and whether Government propose to include those facilities now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Various suggestions were made to the Central Governments by Central Ministries, State Governments State Agro Industries Corporations and other organisations for improving the viability of Agro Service Centres and rehabilitation of Sick Units.

(b) and (c) The scheme for rehabilitation of Sick Agro Service Centres was prepared after giving the due consideration to all suggestions and in consultation with State Governments and filed in the Supreme Court in 1986.

Financial liabilities and assets of Agro Service Centres

3289. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVARO JADHAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. had recommended vide their letter No. cdd dated the 19th March, 1986 to the Central Government that in the view of the precarious conditions of the Agro Entrepreneurs of Agro Service Centres Schemes, all the financial liabilities and the assets of the Agro Service Centres should be taken up by Government and Entrepreneurs be freed;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what alternative solutions, are being proposed by Government and by when these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Orissa State Agro Industries Corporation recommended that assets and liabilities of those units that were sick for more than five years, should be taken over.

(b) The recommendation of Orissa State Agro Industries Corporation was not accepted.

(c) A Rehabilitation Scheme was filed by the Central Government in the Supreme Court in May, 1986.

Provision of government land to the Agro Service Centres

3290. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the original scheme for the establishment of Agro Service Centres there was a provision that Government land in Industrial area, block development offices or at the Tehsil head quarters will be provided to the Agro Service Centres for their establishment on a normal charges;

(b) if so, the number of Agro Service Centres in the country provided land by Government even after 17-18 years of starting of the scheme; and

(c) if no land could be provided, whether responsibility for the failure of the centres has been fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The scheme for establishment of Agro Service Centres, circulated on 28-12-71, did not envisage any such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Interest subsidy on loans of Agro Service Centres

3291. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the original scheme of Agro Service Centres initiated by the Central Government the Planning Commission of India had planned a provision for the interest subsidy upon the loans of Agro Service Centres for the three years in general districts and for the five years in backward areas; and

(b) if so, under what circumstances Government restricted this provision of interest subsidy from five years to three years even for the backward areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) the approved scheme of Agro Service Centres circulated on 28-12-71 envisaged a subsidy on interest for three years for all areas.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction in limit for interest subsidy

3292. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the provision of the original scheme for the establishment of